

2/14/69

Dear Steve,

I've just returned from the hearing in Washington, too tired to respond to your letter at length and with too much to do to warrant the time that would take.

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You ~~may~~ have felt impelled to defend yourself to me, but it was not necessary. To the degree I think you can be defended, I have sought to do it, if that makes any difference. Some of what you told me is false (for example, Howard). This is not persuasive to me and it is unhealthy for you.

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I will not again ask any of you for any information on the "farewell America" bit. I have most of what I need. This may not be enough. I want it only for our defense. It is it Jim who told you not to do this, need I tell you what kind of judgement he displayed? Had he not had emergency help, the prospects are the whole thing would have blown up and he'd have been disbarred. But I am sick and tired of trying to help stupidities escape their own error. There is entirely too much I can do that can serve a constructive purpose. Burton raised the question of office loyalty. Ivon told him to give me the data. What I wanted is not who you ~~saw~~ with, where you ate, but the names and functions and descriptions of those you dealt with - what might enable a defense of that mess all of your disperse-minded fools blundered into. That we have not all been ruined by it is not ~~due~~ due to any of you. Jim's survival of it is in spite of himself. He has more lemmings than all of Scandinavia!

However, I do promise you this: aside from the great harm already done, if there is more trouble with this, do not expect me to remain silent. Not one of you has the good judgement to get out of the rain. You have brought this and other bad things to pass (you plural). Everybody else is paying for it. It has cost me, personally, very heavily. So, I do not care what your reason for your silence. It is you who did this and you who remain silent. You are old enough to make your own decisions.

You may enjoy attempting an analysis of the panel report, but I have already completed a 75,000-word book on it. I doubt if you'll understand enough (which is not and is not intended as an insult) or that your father will, kind as it is of him to offer to help. I am not saying that what I have done cannot be added to or that it is perfect or ~~even~~ even close. However, it does have what no body else saw or understood, including the legal and the medical experts, and it has the merit of being completed. Within two or three days it will be retyped and ready for publication. Not that I expect it, for I haven't the money and when there is money available, it is available only for foolishness and pleasures. Nonetheless, if you decide to go ahead, you will need the panel and doctors' reports, the DJ brief, the Rhoads affidavit and the GSA-Kennedy-estate contract, plus (I think) the Boswell and Marshall letters. You should also have knowledge I doubt you have, of the detailed fact. Having the autopsy report is only part. Frankly, I think it is wasting time except for the experience. It might be good training, a valuable exercise in analysis. There is enough on the UPI wire of what went into evidence today, which is from my work, to give you a good start. There is also much good in Bud's brief, some of which came from me. I caution you against Forman's material, the only viable part of which is the impossibility of going through the neck without hitting bone and at anything like the required angle and that, despite his contrary claim, is not his anyway. It is two years old in essentially the form in which he uses it and all of us who have spoken of this have pretty well exhausted what he says. The significant difference is that he used skeletons. However, it is in this narrow use only that his stuff, original or not, stacks up at all. Please excuse the errors and try and wade through them. I've no time for more now.

PS No pp'l del'y in country.

Sincerely,